

The Constitution of the Congress of the South Forty

Preamble

In order to ensure a representative government capable of fulfilling the needs of the residents of the South Forty, we hereby ordain this constitution and its statutes, establishing the Congress of the South Forty.

Article I – Name

This organization, acknowledged as a Residence Hall Association (RHA), shall be known as the Congress of the South Forty (CS40).

Article II – Objective and Structure

The Congress of the South Forty (CS40) exists to enhance the social and living environment of the South Forty, promote student involvement in the Residential Colleges, ensure that student opinion is represented adequately to the Washington University administration, and facilitate and encourage student development. In order to achieve these objectives, CS40 shall consist of an Executive board, an Assembly, boards, Committees, Residential College Councils, and any necessary special bodies.

Article III – Representation and Membership

All residents of the Washington University Residential Colleges, who have paid the appropriate activity fee equal to two percent of the cost of the least expensive double room, shall be represented by CS40 and shall have all of the rights and privileges afforded by CS40. A member of the Congress of the South Forty shall be any person living on the South Forty and holding an elected or appointed position in CS40, including members of CS40 Committees. All members of CS40 shall act at all times in the best interests of the residents of the South Forty and CS40.

Article IV – Executive Board

Section I – Membership

The Executive Board shall consist of a Speaker, a Director of Services, a Director of Finance, a Director of Public Relations, and a Director of Development.

Section II – Prerequisites

To be an Executive Board member, an individual must:

- A. Be a full-time student of Washington University and have served as a member of a Residential College Council for at least one semester, including the current semester.
- B. Live in on-campus housing affiliated with Residential Life during their term in office.
- C. Be in good standing as determined by the Dean's Office of the division in which the individual is enrolled and Residential Life
- D. Have served less than two terms on the executive board

Section III – Powers and Responsibilities of the Executive Board

- A. Any Executive may call a meeting of the Executive Board.
- B. During any period in which the Assembly cannot meet, the Executive Board shall have such powers as may be necessary to carry out the operations of CS40. The Speaker shall report all such actions at the next Assembly meeting. These actions are subject to majority approval by the Assembly.
- C. With a unanimous vote, the Executive Board may veto any item of legislation within forty-eight hours of passage. In the event of such a veto, the Speaker shall prepare and present at the next Assembly meeting the reasons for the veto. The item of legislation in its original form shall then be reintroduced by its sponsor and reconsidered by the Assembly. If an item of legislation is vetoed, an Assembly meeting shall occur within one week of the veto. An override by the Assembly shall consist of a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Assembly members present at the meeting.
- D. In the event of an emergency in which the Executive Board cannot meet or contact one another, any Executive shall have such powers as may be deemed necessary to handle the situation. These actions shall be reported at the next Executive Board meeting and at the next Assembly meeting. These actions are subject to majority approval by the affected body.
- E. The Executive Board shall advise the operations of all boards, Committees, College Councils, and special bodies. Responsibility for non-delegated Committees shall be divided among the Executives at their discretion.
- F. The Executive Board shall appoint all Committee Chairs.

- G. Each Executive shall report at each Assembly on their activities and the Director of Public Relations shall email written minutes to all members at the end of each Assembly.
- H. In the event that the Speaker is unable to Chair a CS40 Assembly meeting, the remaining Executives shall reach a consensus to appoint an Executive to Chair the meeting.
- I. The Executive Board shall have the power to appoint a transition team. Any member of the transition team returning to campus early shall be compensated in the amount of housing and fifteen dollars (\$15) per day for food. This compensation period shall not exceed fourteen (14) days.
- J. No Executive shall be allowed to be a member of their College Council in any capacity other than advisor.
- K. All executive duties not specifically outlined under the powers and responsibilities of one executive member will be split evenly among the executive officers.
- L. The Executive Board shall each hold weekly office hours amounting to a minimum of five (5) hours.

Section IV – The Powers and Responsibilities of the Speaker

The Speaker shall:

- A. Call and Chair Assembly meetings.
- B. Chair the Resident Student Advisory Board (RSAB).
- C. Serve as the Executive Advisor to the Operations Board.
- D. Call and chair the executive board meeting.
- E. Set the overall vision for the organization.

Section V – The Powers and Responsibilities of the Director of Services

The Director of Services shall:

- A. Oversee and coordinate services of CS40.
- B. Serve as the Executive Advisor to the Services Board.
- C. Include something about the office and our supplies?

Section VI – The Powers and Responsibilities of the Director of Finance

The Director of Finance shall:

- A. Serve as the Executive Advisor to the College Council Treasurers.
- B. Serve as the Chair of the Finance Board.
- C. Hand the budget and financial responsibilities of CS40.

Section VII – The Powers and Responsibilities of the Director of Public Relations

The Director of Public Relations shall:

- A. Serve as the Executive Advisor to the College Council PR Reps.
- B. Chair the Promotions Board and assist with large scale printing.
- C. Handle the publicity and advertising for the organization.

Section VIII – The Powers and Responsibilities of the Director of Development

The Director of Development shall:

- A. Serve as the Executive Advisor to the Development Board.
- B. Oversee external relations and opportunities for CS40.
- C. Chair assembly meetings in the event that the Speaker is unable to, serve as a proxy for the Speaker in case they are unable fulfill their duties, and be prepared to serve as Speaker in the case the current Speaker resigns.

Section IX – Term of Office

- A. The term of office for the Executive Board-elect shall begin on the date of the inauguration assembly meeting following their election and end when the successor executive board is inaugurated the following spring

Section X – Compensation

- A. Executive Board members shall be compensated for 60% the value of a Residential Life traditional double Residential housing unit. This compensation shall be regulated by a contract with Residential Life and be contingent upon the signing of this contract.

Article V – Yearly Budget

- A. The outgoing Executive Board, headed by the outgoing Director of Finance, shall make a complete budget recommendation to the Assembly for the upcoming year.
- B. The outgoing Committee Chairs shall present finance requests to the Finance Board, which shall make a recommendation to the Executive Board regarding Committee budgets for the upcoming year.
- C. Executives from the current and upcoming year may attend the meeting where the Committees present their finance requests.
- D. The Assembly shall approve a budget for the year at the end of the Spring Semester with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of members present

Article VI – The Assembly

Section I – Membership

The voting membership of the Assembly shall consist of the all college council members of the Congress of the South 40, Committee Chairs, and representatives of special bodies and the Executive Board.

Section II – Powers and Responsibilities of the Assembly

The Assembly shall:

- A. Have the power to discuss, debate, propose, and enact legislative measures pertaining to the South Forty.
- B. Meet at least once every two weeks, excluding school vacations.
- C. Decide funding requests on the basis of presentations from the Finance Board and a representative of the body requesting funding.

Article VII– Committee Chairs and Boards

Section I – Membership

Committee Chairs include an Internal Operations Chair, Competitions Chair, Swamp Chair, Social Chair, St. Louis Chair, Scholastic Chair, Community Service Chair, and Diversity and Inclusion Chair.

Section II – Prerequisites

To be a Committee Chair, an individual must:

- A. Be a full-time student of Washington University and have served as a member of a CS40 Committee, a member of a Residential College Council, or a member of a special body for at least one semester, including the current semester.
- B. Be in good academic standing as determined by the Dean’s Office of the division in which the individual is enrolled.

Section III – Term of Office

The term of office for Committee Chairs shall be one calendar year (April – April),), in line with the term of office for the executive board.

Section IV – Appointments to Positions

- A. Committee Chairs, except for the RSAB Chair, PromoBo, Finance Board, shall be chosen by the Executive Board.
 - 1. The Committee Chair selected will be the most qualified candidate, regardless of the person’s residency status.

2. No Committee Chairs shall be allowed to be a member of their College Council in any capacity.
- B. Board Representatives shall choose the boards on which they serve with the exception of the IOC, Finance Board, Eco board, RSAB, or Promotions Board.
- C. Committee Chairs shall be responsible for capping their Committee.

Section V – The Internal Operations Committee (IOC)

The Internal Operations Committee shall:

- A. Be chaired by the Internal Operations Chair.
- B. Consist of the Internal Operations Chair and any necessary involved parties, which includes but is not limited to Vice Presidents, the IOC Chair, one Executive member and one of the CS40 advisors.
- C. Interpret the CS40 Constitution at the request of the Assembly and as the Committee sees fit and as proposals arise.
- D. Serve as the judicial branch of CS40, as deemed necessary.

Section VI - The Resident Student Advisory Board (RSAB):

The Residential Student Advisory Board shall:

- A. Be chaired by the Speaker.
- B. Be composed of the College Council Presidents, the Speaker, and any other members who may be added at the discretion of the Speaker.
- C. Discuss and voice concerns about various issues pertinent to Residential Life.

Section VII - Finance Board

The Finance Board shall:

- A. Be chaired by the Director of Finance.
- B. Be comprised of the College Council Treasurers.
- C. Hear funding requests and make a written recommendation to the Assembly on behalf of individuals or groups who wish to provide programming or services for the residents of the South Forty.
- D. Have first review of all financial requests submitted to CS40.

Section VIII – Diversity and Inclusion Committee

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee shall:

- A. Be chaired by the Diversity and Inclusion Chair.
- B. Be comprised of the College Council Diversity and Inclusion Representatives.
- C. Ensure that all CS40 programming is accessible and inclusive.

D. Work to expand the traditional scope of “Diversity and Inclusion.”

Section IX – Services Board

The Services Board shall:

- A. Be comprised of Committee Chairs and their designated Committees relating to large activities and programs on the South Forty.
 - 1. Competitions Committee
 - 2. Social Committee
 - 3. Swamp Committee
- B. Be Advised by the Director of Services.
- C. Be comprised of, but not limited to, Board Representatives of the College Councils.

Section X – Development Board

The Development Board shall:

- A. Be comprised of Committee Chairs and their designated Committees relating to the advancement of the Washington University Campus and the St. Louis Community cultures and environments.
 - 1. Community Service Committee
 - 2. St. Louis Culture Committee
 - 3. Scholastic Committee
 - 4. Diversity and Inclusion Committee
- B. Be Advised by the Director of Development.
- C. Be comprised of, but not limited to, Board Representatives of the College Councils.

Section X – Promotions Board

The Promotions Board shall:

- A. Be responsible for all publicity efforts coordinated by CS40 and shall establish guidelines for all CS40 publicity.
- B. Be Chaired by the Director of Public Relations
- C. Be comprised of College Council Public Relations Representatives.

Section XI – Operations Board

The Operations Board shall:

- A. Be comprised of Committee Chairs and Executive members relating to the operation, management and structure of CS40.
 - 1. Director of Finance
 - 2. Director of Public Relations
 - 3. Internal Operations Committee (IOC) Chair

- 4. Sustainability Committee Chair
- B. Be Chaired by the Speaker.
- C. Work to establish an efficient structure for CS40.

Section XII – Formation of New Committees

Additional Committees may be formed at the discretion of the Executive Board. These Committee Chairs will be appointed by the Executive Board.

Article VIII – Residential College Councils

Section I – Membership

- A. Each Residential College Council (to be referred to as “College Council”) shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, a Public Relations Representative, a Diversity and Inclusion Representative, a Eco Representative and Board Representatives.
- B. Each College Council will ideally have at least six (6) College Council representatives and one Board Representative for every seventy-five (75) residents, or more at the Residential College Director’s discretion.
- C. A College Council may have an unlimited number of members who participate in the planning and organizing of College Council projects and programming.

Section II – The Powers and Responsibilities of the Residential College Councils

Residential College Councils shall:

- A. Provide programming which benefits the residents of their Residential College and all the residents of the South Forty.
- B. Represent the residents of their Residential College by providing leadership and a forum to hear resident’s concerns.
- C. Discuss, propose, and enact legislation for the benefit of the residents of that Residential College.

Section III – The Powers and Responsibilities of the Residential College Council Executives

- A. The College Council President shall:
 - 1. Convene and preside over the College Council meetings.
 - 2. Oversee the organization of programming for their Residential College.
 - 3. Serve as a member of the Resident Student Advisory Board (RSAB).
 - 4. Have the option to serve as a member of other Committees in the Development or Services Board, in addition to the RSAB.

- B. The College Council Vice President shall:
1. Preside over College Council meetings in the absence of the President.
 2. Act as a liaison with other College Council vice Presidents to coordinate activities as needed.
 3. Serve as a member of the Internal Operations Committee (IOC).
 4. Have the option to serve as a member of other Committees in the Development or Services Board, in addition to the IOC.
- C. The College Council Treasurer shall:
1. Preside over the College Council meetings in the absence of both the president and the Vice president.
 2. Handle the distribution of funds for their respective College Council.
 3. Serve as a member of the Finance Board.
 4. Have the option to serve as a member of other Committees in the Development or Services Board, in addition to the Finance Board.
- D. The College Council Public Relations Representative shall:
1. Preside over College Council meetings in the absence of the president, vice president, and the treasurer.
 2. Serve as a member of the Promotions Board.
 3. Have the option to serve as a member of other Committees in the Development or Services Board, in addition to the Promotions Board.
 4. Oversee the publicity of the College Council.
- E. The College Council Diversity and Inclusion Representative shall:
1. Ensure that events planned within their College Council are inclusive and accessible to all first years and returning residents.
 2. Serve on Diversity and Inclusion committee.
 3. Have the option to serve as a member of other Committees in the Development or Services Board, in addition to the Diversity and Inclusion committee.
- F. The College Council Eco Representative shall:
1. Oversee the sustainability of college council events.
 2. Serve on the Sustainability Committee
 3. Have the option to serve as a member of other Committees in the Development or Services Board, in addition to the Sustainability committee.
- G. The College Council Executives shall have the power to act on behalf of their College Council when a meeting is not possible.

Section IV – The Powers and Responsibilities of College Council and Board Representatives

- A. The Board Representatives shall:
 - 1. Take an active part, primarily by voicing opinions and casting votes, in the decisions made by the College Council, and then participate in these activities.
 - 2. Convey ideas and information between their College Council meetings and residents.
 - 3. Serve on either the Service Board or the Development Board.

Section V -Assembly Attendance Policies

- A. If a College Council as a whole has above six (6) absences at Assembly in the last three (3) meetings, then the RCD will be notified of their poor attendance via e-mail.
- B. If an individual has three (3) unexcused absences at Assembly, a notification will be sent to the RCD of their college council.
- C. Board, Committee, and Special Body Attendance Policy
 - 1. If a College Council has no attendance at Board, Committee, or Special Body meeting for more than two (2) meetings, the RCD will be notified of poor attendance via e-mail.

Section VI – Term of Office

The term of office for members of College Councils shall begin as soon as fall election results are known and shall expire at the end of the academic year.

Section VII – Change of Residence

If any College Council member were to change Residential Colleges, that individual will meet with the CS40 advisor and RCD of new community to determine best course of action.

Section VIII – Meetings

- A. The first meeting of each College Council must be held no later than two weeks after the elections for College Council members.
- B. Meetings must be held at least once every two weeks, between CS40 Assembly meetings.
- C. A simple majority is necessary for approving any motions.

Article IX – Removal from Office

Section I- Formal Complaint Procedures for Exec and chair members

The removal of any member from CS40 shall:

- A. Be governed by the removal policy described in the Bylaws
- B. be supervised by a CS40 advisor

Article X – Amendments

Section I – Proposals

- A. An amendment to the Constitution of CS40 must be sponsored by a member of the CS40 Assembly.
- B. The sponsoring Assembly member must have a written petition signed by at least ten (10) members of the College of the South Forty before presenting the amendment to the Assembly, unless the sponsor is the Internal Operations Committee (IOC).
- C. The sponsor of the amendment must submit their written proposal to the Internal Operations Chair at least 72 hours in advance for feedback. The sponsor is not required to act in accordance with these suggestions.
- D. The sponsor of the amendment or the IOC Chair, if the sponsor would like to remain anonymous, will read the amendment aloud to the Assembly.

Section II - Ratification

- A. After the amendment has been read aloud, the Assembly will move into a question and answer session concerning the proposed amendment, regarding intent, language, and purpose.
- B. The debate concludes in the following three paths:
 - 1. If there is a motion to vote from a member of the Assembly and then the motion is seconded by another member of Assembly, voting will ensue, in which a two-thirds (2/3) majority is necessary to ratify the proposed amendment. Once ratified, the proposal will be integrated into the CS40 Constitution.
 - 2. If there is a motion to revise the proposed amendment from a member of Assembly and the motion is seconded by another member of Assembly, then a vote will ensue. If a 2/3rds majority is reached, then the sponsor must consider all revisions suggested by the Assembly and will revise the amendment at their discretion for the next Assembly. At the next Assembly, the revised amendment will be proposed by the initial sponsor, and the process for ratification will be repeated.
 - 3. If there is a motion to stall the voting on the ratification of the amendment and it is seconded, then a vote will ensue. A 2/3rds majority is necessary for the amendment to be postponed to the next

Assembly. At the next Assembly, the process for ratification will be repeated.

If the proposed amendment, having been voted upon at the current Assembly or revised or postponed for the next Assembly, fails to meet the 2/3rds majority vote necessary for ratification, the amendment will not be ratified, revised, nor postponed for a later Assembly.

Article XI – Elections

A. The Internal Operations Committee Chair manages and executes the Fall and Spring Elections.

Article XII – Dissolution

If CS40 should cease to exist, all property and funds shall revert to and be held by the Office of Residential Life or its successor with the intent that the resources be used specifically for Residential programs until such time as a successor organization to CS40 is formed. If any general student government of Washington University Residential Colleges is formed and recognized by a majority of the residents, all held property and funds shall revert to the successor organization.

Passed in the CS40 Executive Board, April 2020

Andrew Leung, Internal Operations Chair

Ola Adebayo, CS40 Speaker